



News for Immediate Release
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DWR JOINS MILLERTON LAKE EVENT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

SACRAMENTO -- For the third consecutive year, Department of Water Resources personnel will participate in "Catch a Special Thrill for Kids" at the Millerton Lake Recreation Area near Fresno on Saturday, October 4, 2003.

An extraordinary fishing event for disabled children hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation's South-Central California Area Office and the national "C.A.S.T. for Kids" Foundation, the "catch and release" program has grown to accommodate more than 50 pre-registered youngsters. 2001's inaugural event hosted 40 disadvantaged or disabled kids.

Children participating this year are from Children's Hospital Central California, Make-A-Wish Foundation of South San Joaquin Valley, and the Fresno County Department of Children and Family Services.

Starting at 8 a.m., each child will receive his/her own fishing rod and reel, tackle box, commemorative tee-shirt and cap, meet the boat captains for the day and go fishing for 2 ½ to 3 hours. After the fishing expedition, there will be a free barbecue lunch and an awards ceremony.

DWR San Joaquin District Chief Paula Landis will volunteer her services as a boat captain and other DWR personnel will assist with such interactive activities as teaching children about water resources, fisheries, flora and fauna, and outdoor safety.

A water information booth will be staffed by DWR's Office of Water Education, which will also provide its computerized "fishing simulator" for youngsters who want to do their fishing on dry land.

Many Fresno and Los Banos area businesses will be donating their time, educational items, equipment, materials, food, beverages, talents and services.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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